various oil Cos. under the administrative control of this Ministry are as under:

SCs	STs
71	135

(b) Special drive to fill up backlog vacancies reserved for SCs/STs was launched by DOPT and this Ministry makes a part of the same.

(c) No. of vacancies filled during the last two years, company-wise may please be seen at Statement. *(See* below;

(d) The total no. of backlog vacancies as on 31 st March, 2006 is as under:

SCs	STs
9	35

Statement

No. of vacancies filled during the last two years, in various oil companies

Name of the Oil Company	SCs	STs
BPCL	3	24
Oil	10	27
HPCL	6	18
EIL	2	1
NRL	15	5
GAIL	26	25
Total:	62	100

Rural tourism projects

3293. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Barapali with 400 years of history and heritage in Orissa has good potential for rural tourism;

(b) whether realizing its potential the State Government has recommended to the Centre to include Barapali under its special rural tourism project; and

(c) if so, the status of the proposal indicating the time-frame within which the proposal would be considered and whether the State has been advised of the position?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI). (a) to (c) Based on proposals received from State Government of Orissa, Department of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 50.00 lakh in 2006-07 for development of Rural Tourism Project in Barapali Village, District Bargah, Orissa.

Removal of encroachment from monuments

3294. DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of historical monuments are on the verge of extinction in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many historical monuments have been encroached upon by the unscrupulous people; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Central Government has declared 3667 ancient monuments as momuments of national importance, and takes care of their conservation, maintenance and protection through the Archaeological Survey of India. Besides the State Governments, under relevant state legislations for protection of ancient monuments, have also protected nearly 4000 historical monuments.

(c) A list of centrally protected monuments (State-wise) whcih are under encroachment is enclosed as Statement. *(See* below)

(d) The assistance in containing and removing encroachments is sought frorn the respective State Government & where there are no fruitful results, action is initiated against the encroachers by filing cases in the courts of law. The Superintending Archaeologists of Circels have been vested with the powers of an Estate Officer to issue eviction notices/